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Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.165/PC.1/2
16 February 1994

Original: ENGLISH

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
(HABITAT II)

First session

Geneva

11-22 April 1994

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Preparations for the Conference:

progress report of the Secretary-General

**PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT**

Report of the Secretary-General

This document gives a summary of the activities related to the preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) up to 31 January 1994 and is presented to the Preparatory Committee for its consideration and appropriate action.

GE.94-01132

INTRODUCTION

1. On 1 March 1993, Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), was appointed Officer-in-charge of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In this capacity, the Under-Secretary-General was asked by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to address the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, held in New York from 3 to 5 March 1993, and to coordinate the Conference preparatory process.

2. Accordingly, the following progress report gives an overview by the Under-Secretary-General of the activities of the Habitat II secretariat up to the end of January 1994.

3. One of the first initiatives undertaken by the secretariat was the preparation of a work programme for the preparatory process outlining in detail the nature, scope and preliminary costing of all activities to be undertaken by the secretariat.

4. This progress report follows, as far as possible, the three sections of the draft work programme for the preparatory process: support to the preparatory activities at the country level; regional and global activities; and information and public relations.

I. ACTIVITIES FOR THE PREPARATORY PROCESS

Draft work programme for the preparatory process

5. The draft work programme for the preparatory process was presented at the first meeting of the Bureau and subsequently distributed to all Member States, United Nations organizations and agencies on 27 October 1993 with the request that they provide their comments and observations to the secretariat by 30 November 1993. As of 31 January 1994 the secretariat had received only a few responses from national governments and agencies.

A. Support to the preparatory activities at the country level

1. Host country preparations

6. A proposal was submitted to the Turkish Parliament to establish a National Preparatory Committee for Habitat II. An Organization and Coordination Committee will be established, as well as a Technical Committee and a National Committee for the Private Sector to ensure private-sector participation.

7. The Under-Secretary-General plans to visit Turkey during the first half of 1994 to discuss with the Government the broad lines of in-country and conference preparations and to present to the Government a progress report on the preparatory process.

2. Non-governmental organizations

8. The Under-Secretary-General invited the NGOs attending the General Assembly of the Habitat International Coalition (HIC) - the global umbrella organization of human settlements NGOs - held at Manila on 28 September 1993, to take an active part in the national preparatory process of Habitat II. She stressed that action at the country level prior to the Conference was crucial to its success and that the Conference would be a unique occasion for an exchange of successful experiences. The event was followed up by consultations in Nairobi with key HIC officials.

9. NGOs in a number of countries intend to mobilize community organizations, the private sector, city governments and other actors in the improvement and management of settlements to consolidate the process at the local level and to expand the process gradually to the national level. These countries are: Brazil, India, Kenya, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, Senegal, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago and the United Republic of Tanzania.

10. The Habitat International Coalition has considered organizing a parallel NGO forum at the Conference. It is reviewing the secretariat's suggestion that such a parallel meeting should not be necessary if NGOs play an active role in the national preparatory process and if all the negotiating documents of the Conference adequately reflect NGO viewpoints.

11. UNCHS (Habitat) was also represented at the international colloquium on "A Future World after Rio", held in Paris, 19-20 November 1993, organized by the Centre de Recherche et d'Information pour le Développement (CRID), an umbrella organization representing NGOs. The colloquium was aimed at assessing the results of the NGO Rio Declaration. The NGO's International Network, through CRID, decided to launch a preparatory process in support of Habitat II among its members.

12. As a result of the first issue of the *Habitat II Bulletin* - which contained detailed information on the rules and procedures for the participation of NGOs in the Conference - applications for NGO accreditation are now being received by the secretariat. To date, 75 NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council enjoy accreditation, while an additional eight NGOs have sought accreditation.

B. Regional and global activities

1. Organizational session of the Preparatory Committee

13. The Preparatory Committee held its organizational session at United Nations Headquarters from 3 to 5 March 1993. A copy of the report on the organizational session, as adopted at its 5th meeting, and entitled Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), was issued as part of the Official Records of the General Assembly at its forty-eight session as document A/48/37 and is included in the documentation of the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee.

2. Fourteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements

14. At its fourteenth session, held at Nairobi, Kenya, from 26 April to 5 May 1993, the Commission on Human Settlements, in response to a request of the Preparatory Committee, considered the preparations for the Conference and subsequently adopted resolution 14/20 entitled "Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)". The text of this resolution, together with its annex, is reproduced in document A/CONF.165/PC.1/7

3. United Nations organizations and agencies

15. On 18 November 1993, UNCHS (Habitat) submitted a draft of the work programme for the preparatory process for the Conference to all organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, soliciting their comments, participation and support.

16. An international expert group meeting on urban indicators, organized jointly by UNCHS (Habitat) and the World Bank was held at Nairobi from 10 to 15 January 1994 to develop guidelines for in-country preparations and reporting, using specific indicators on the first theme proposed for the Conference: Sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world. Representatives from all regional commissions and specialized agencies were invited. The report of this expert group meeting (A/CONF.165/PC.1/INF.3) has been included in the documentation before the Preparatory Committee.

4. Bureau

17. The Bureau of the Preparatory Committee held two meetings during 1993. The first meeting took place on 17 to 18 September 1993 at Vancouver, Canada, while the second one took place in New York on 18 November 1993.

18. At the Vancouver meeting, the Under-Secretary-General presented a progress report to the Bureau. The Bureau reviewed and consolidated previous decisions relating to Habitat II, including the finalization, with five additional items, of the provisional agenda for the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee adopted during the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee.

19. During the meeting on 18 November 1993, the Under-Secretary-General presented a progress report on the activities for the preparatory process since the first Bureau meeting. The Under-Secretary-General stressed the need for the Bureau members to sensitize the countries in their regions on the importance of national action and further informed the Bureau that the trust fund established to provide funds for participation by least-developed countries had received only one country contribution (from Italy) and that an appeal letter would go out in January 1994.

5. Habitat II secretariat

20. On 13 August 1993, the Under-Secretary-General appointed a senior staff member, Mr. Pietro Garau, to the position of Director of the Habitat II secretariat.

21. On 1 February 1994 the Under-Secretary-General announced that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, had appointed Mr. Jorge Wilhelm from Brazil to the position of Deputy-Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

22. In January 1994, a Habitat II secretariat core team of seven UNCHS (Habitat) staff members was formed and later complemented with other UNCHS (Habitat) staff as well as externally-recruited staff to work full-time on the preparations for the Conference.

23. The Government of the Netherlands provided assistance to the Habitat II secretariat in the refinement of the draft work programme for the preparatory process of the Conference by providing the advisory services of an international team of experts. This advisory team is assisting the secretariat prior to the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee. It is further envisaged to convene a second advisory round after the first session of the Preparatory Committee, so as to assist in the inclusion of the decisions of the Committee.

24. The Governments of Denmark and Norway are also considering making special contributions to the Habitat II preparatory process.

6. Regional activities

(a) Africa

25. Regional activities in Africa took their initial impetus from the Organization for African Unity (OAU) resolution 1469 (LVIII) on the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) of 29 June 1993. The Director of the Industry and Human Settlements Division of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) was subsequently invited to Nairobi and held consultations with senior officials at UNCHS (Habitat) on 17-19 November. A UNCHS (Habitat)-ECA task force was created to accelerate Habitat II-related activities in the African region and to start identifying a Habitat II strategy for the region. This was followed up by a meeting at ECA headquarters between the Under-Secretary-General and the Executive Secretary of the ECA. The Under-Secretary-General also attended and briefed the Conference of Environmental Ministers (Addis Ababa, 26-27 September 1993) on the preparations for Habitat II. Other follow-up activities included a meeting of African technical experts to formulate a strategy for effective participation by the African region in the Habitat II preparatory process, held at UNCHS (Habitat) Headquarters from 21 to 25 February 1994, to be followed by an inter-governmental meeting of Ministers responsible for human settlements in the region (mid-March 1994). These meetings are being organized in collaboration with ECA and OAU and with participation of the African Development Bank (ADB).

26. UNCHS (Habitat) has offered short-term staff support to ECA to enable that organization to become an operational partner in the preparatory activities at the regional level. The issue of an African regional preparatory strategy for the Habitat II preparatory process was also discussed at the 6th Consultative Meeting

of the Chief Executives of the ECA-OAU-ADB secretariats (Cairo, Egypt, 8-9 December 1993). The Chief Executives noted the on-going

preparatory process and directed their joint secretariat to coordinate its activities to ensure effective participation at the regional level.

(b) Asia

27. Habitat II was a central subject of discussion at the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific, held at the headquarters of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok from 27 October to 2 November 1993. Two documents emerged from this conference: (a) Regional Plan of Action on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific; and (b) a Ministerial Declaration on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific. At the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials, it was agreed that the preparatory process for Habitat II would be integrated with the process for implementation of the Regional Action Plan. The Ministers concurred, and in their declaration "...called upon member and associate member countries to actively promote broad-based participation in the preparatory process for Habitat II as a means of advancing the principles and implementing the activities adopted in the Regional Action Plan for Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific."

(c) Europe

28. Habitat II was presented at the 54th session of the ECE Committee on Human Settlements. The Committee transmitted to the Commission a proposal for a high-level ECE meeting on Habitat II to take place before the 1995 session of the Preparatory Committee. Heads of delegation at the ECE Committee will meet in Geneva prior to that session for coordination purposes. ECE country monographs are to be harmonized in accordance with Habitat II themes and related indicators. The United States delegation at the meeting offered consultancy support to Eastern European countries for indicators/monograph preparations.

(d) Latin America

29. Senior staff from the UNCHS (Habitat) Technical Cooperation Division and the Urban Management Programme presented and discussed Habitat II at the Second Annual Meeting of Ministers for Housing and Urban Development, which took place in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 29 November to 1 December 1993.

30. The Meeting expressed its active support to Habitat II through commitment to setting up broad-based consultations at the country level and a search for funding of a regional project, supported by ECLAC as its secretariat, in preparation of a common presentation to Habitat II.

31. Discussions were held in Nairobi with staff from the joint ECLAC/UNCHS unit on preparations for Habitat II in the region.

(e) Arab States

32. The Government of Jordan is organizing, in cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the League of Arab States, the UNCHS (Habitat) Regional

Office for West Asia and UNCHS (Habitat) in its capacity as the Conference secretariat, a regional preparatory seminar on Habitat II issues for Arab States.

33. The seminar will be held from 21 to 23 March 1994 in Amman, Jordan. The seminar will discuss, among other items, the draft proposal for activities to be undertaken at the national and regional levels, as well as a proposal to hold an Arab ministerial meeting for Habitat II prior to the second substantive session of the Preparatory Committee.

C. Information and public relations

1. World Habitat Day, 4 October 1993

34. On World Habitat Day, 4 October 1993, the Under-Secretary-General officially launched the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) at United Nations Headquarters, New York, in the presence of the President of the General Assembly and of a distinguished audience. The Under-Secretary-General stated that Habitat II was expected to come up with answers to the quest for better living conditions for all, initiated 20 years ago in Vancouver at the first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements. That goal would not be achieved by simply improving techniques and approaches for the planning, building and maintenance of human settlements. The quest must be based on three basic principles: home - as opposed to housing; community - as opposed to "settlement" or "neighbourhood"; and civic responsibility - as opposed to over-reliance on government or selfish individual motivation.

35. In the course of a public ceremony at the Headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), representatives of the Central Government of Chile, Parliament, the National Association of Mayors, the Chilean Chamber of Builders, the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Chile, the National NGO Coordinating Committee, and the Metropolitan Federation of Neighbourhood Councils, signed the constituting act of the National Preparatory Committee of Chile for Habitat II.

2. Meetings

36. Habitat II has been a recurrent item in all presentations and high-level meetings in which the Under-Secretary-General has participated. Presentations were made to a group of Swedish Parliamentarians, which included the Chairman of the Housing Committee. The Conference and Draft Work Programme for the Preparatory Process were also presented to a Finnish delegation when it visited UNCHS (Habitat) on 22 November 1993.

37. The Director of the Habitat II secretariat participated in an international meeting of cities from Europe, North America and Latin America organized by the Municipality of Barcelona from 1 to 3 December 1993. At that meeting a presentation was made on Habitat II, emphasizing the involvement of cities and international associations of cities and local governments in the preparatory

process. An agreement of cooperation was signed between UNCHS (Habitat) and the city of Barcelona.

38. During the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development, held from 31 January to 10 February 1994 in New York, UNCHS (Habitat) staff publicized Habitat II issues and, in particular, the first substantive meeting of the Preparatory Committee of Habitat II, as part of the informal agenda, to the government and agency representatives present, in order to generate further interest and collaboration.

3. Other information activities

39. The first issue of the Conference newsletter, *Habitat II Bulletin*, was launched at the December meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNCHS (Habitat). Subsequently, it has been included in a "Habitat II Information Kit", which has been, and is still being, widely distributed. The second issue of the *Habitat II Bulletin* is expected to be ready for distribution by March 1994.

40. The secretariat is considering the production of a Habitat II calendar. The secretariat will draw upon photographs from the UNEP/Canon photo competition with human settlements themes as a means of publicizing the Conference.

41. The secretariat is also in contact with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Kenyan broadcasting companies and various press agencies for details on how they can help in publicizing Habitat II.

42. An information leaflet on Habitat II has been prepared and is ready for dissemination, while a glossy brochure is expected to be ready by mid-March 1994.

43. Two 1000-word articles have been prepared for the UNEP publication *Our Planet* on the preparations for Habitat II and on the environmental implications of inadequate municipal infrastructure and housing.

44. Preparations are under way for the production of a Habitat II poster in all official United Nations languages.

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Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.165/PC.1/3
28 January 1994

Original: ENGLISH

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
(HABITAT II)

First session

Geneva

11-22 April 1994

Item 5 of the provisional agenda
Draft statement of principles
and commitments

**DRAFT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENTS:
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE**

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

In response to a directive from the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session, this report sets out a draft statement of four fundamental principles upon which the human settlements Global Plan of Action may be based. Principles I and II are substantive, as they address the two themes recommended by the Commission on Human Settlements at its fourteenth session: (a) Sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world and (b) Adequate shelter for all. Principles III and IV are operational in their focus on the key implementing mechanisms of management and enablement. The rationale for the principles is presented in accompanying short narratives.

Because the term "commitment" is undefined in General Assembly resolution 47/180 (which calls for a general statement of principles and commitments) and because, undefined, its meaning is ambiguous, draft commitments are not presented in this report. The word might mean commitment to the principles embodied in a global plan of action or it may mean a commitment of resources for the implementation of the plan. A general statement of commitments would vary accordingly.

After review of this report and of the related draft format for the Global Plan of Action, the Preparatory Committee may wish to suggest action to:

(a) amend, substitute, augment and/or adopt the proposed principles as the basis for the Global Plan of Action and to provide additional or alternative supporting rationale based on agreement derived from its own deliberations; and

(b) define the term "commitment" as stated in General Assembly resolution 47/180 in order to provide further direction for the secretariat in developing a general statement of principles and commitments.

The Preparatory Committee may further wish to issue succinct instructions to the secretariat for finalizing the general statement of principles and commitments and for incorporating them into the Global Plan of Action.

I. PREAMBLE

A. The Mandate

1. General Assembly Resolution 47/180 set out the following objectives for the Habitat II Conference:

(a) In the long term, to arrest the deterioration of global human settlements conditions and ultimately create the conditions for achieving improvements in the living environment of all people on a sustainable basis, with special attention to the needs and contributions of women and vulnerable social groups whose quality of life and participation in development have been hampered by exclusion and inequality, affecting the poor in general;

(b) To adopt a *general statement of principles and commitments* and formulate a related global plan of action capable of guiding national and international efforts through the first two decades of the next century.

2. This report proposes a set of four principles for consideration by the Preparatory Committee. Two are thematic principles, related to the themes of **human settlements and shelter**, and two are operational principles, addressing the need for **rational management** and **enabling mechanisms** in order to marshal all available resources.

B. The challenge

3. By the year 2000, the majority of the world's population will live in urban areas. The main global challenge will be the restructuring of policies and instruments for management of urban societies in providing for basic human needs.

4. In developing and developed countries alike, the most acute predicament arising from rapid urbanization is the increasing number of people living in unhealthy, unsafe, inhumane conditions, without adequate access to employment, basic infrastructure and essential services. The lack of facilities for waste disposal, safe water supply, and sanitation is a primary factor affecting health and economic productivity. The failure to provide for social development, employment, and public safety is a principal cause of alienation, the breakdown of community structure, and social unrest. These issues, and those of shelter, energy, and transport underlie the agenda for sustainable development which can only be addressed through human settlements management and enabling strategies at the national, metropolitan, local, and community levels.

5. Economic trends in the twentieth century, driven by commodity and capital flows, have disrupted the harmony between countryside and city. One of the crucial tasks of human settlements management in the twenty-first century must be to ensure the conditions for socially equitable, economically productive, and environmentally sustainable linkages to be forged in a new rural-urban continuum.

6. Human settlements constitute the main focus for national investment

priorities and strategies. Simply increasing the allocation of scarce resources to human settlements, however, is no guarantee that benefits will reach the majority of the population. Investment and management strategies in an urbanizing society, in order to be effective, must comprehensively incorporate the contributions of society, including the poor. Innovative management processes and technologies must be enlisted to help identify, mobilize, and equitably allocate all available resources. To face the challenge, government, private, non-profit, and corporate organizations, all with interests vested in the future of cities, must be mobilized.

7. These issues emphasise the urgent need for a fresh human settlements agenda based on the compelling argument that there must be better understanding of the pivotal role that well-managed human settlements can play in bringing about equitable social development, economic growth, and a better quality of life for all. Only then can we formulate a positive vision of the urbanized world of the future which will inspire forward-looking programmes and actions.

8. Habitat II is a unique opportunity to create this positive vision and to redefine the human settlements agenda, focusing the attention of the world on the challenges of urbanisation and the future of cities.

II. PRINCIPLES

9. The number of proposed principles is intentionally brief. They respond to universal human needs. They are easy to understand and to remember. They are neutral in terms of culture and the political system. They may be invoked to help decision-makers and citizens determine the humane, the correct, path towards human settlements development.

A. Thematic principles

Principle I. **Healthy, safe, and humane settlements are a basic human need.**

Principle II. **Healthy, safe, and affordable shelter is a basic human need.**

10. Rationale: In very simple but profound terms, people everywhere value health and safety above all else. When the possibility of achieving a life without the undue ravages of hunger, thirst, and disease is within grasp, the individual will focus on security, stability, protection, freedom from fear or chaos, and the need for structure and order. When reasonable standards for health and safety have been met, the human being will look to satisfy the needs for belonging, esteem, and accomplishment.¹ Finally, unless needs can

¹This hierarchy of needs was posited by psychologist Abraham H. Maslow and has been a factor in much subsequent research on human motivation. While critics point out that, as a strict hierarchy, Maslow's construct has its faults, it is a useful basis for a discussion of human needs and values.

be satisfied within the means available, for those in need there is no solution. Increasing the available means, including through employment opportunity for the poor, is therefore an important element in the provision of shelter and equitable human settlements development.

11. If these two thematic principles are recognized, substantive programmes and subprogrammes to create sustainable human settlements and to provide adequate shelter for all, have a foundation in reason and may, therefore, be more effectively organised and implemented.

B. Operational principles

Principle III. Meeting basic human needs for settlement and shelter depends upon the efficient mobilization and rational management of all available resources.

Principle IV. Full mobilization of available human resources depends upon enabling people to fully participate in decision-making processes for human settlements and shelter development.

12. Rationale: The key elements in these two interrelated principles are management and participation. They relate, respectively, to the top-down and bottom-up approaches to meeting human needs. Especially where resources are insufficient to satisfy all demands, both approaches are required: management to set priorities and to make the necessary trade-offs in allocating resources; and participation to bring to bear fully the latent array of human capabilities available to help create sustainable human settlements and adequate shelter for all. If the close relationship between these two basic approaches is recognized, integrated mechanisms to implement substantive programmes may be formulated and applied to achieve a greater overall effectiveness.

III. CONCLUSIONS

13. The principles resulting from the Vancouver conference on human settlements in 1976 numbered several dozen. There was little unification or commonality to their structure and organisation, and most of them were prescriptive and patronizing in tone. Resulting from a vigorous negotiating process -- which may be inimical to the very idea of globality -- the principles, for the most part, tended to reflect less than universal values. Subsequently, most have not been used as guidelines for decision-making over the intervening twenty years.

14. The four principles proposed herein do attempt to reflect needs of the human being -- all human beings -- in an urbanising world. In such a world, rapid change and swiftly growing problems tempt decision-makers to take urgent action without consulting all stakeholders or without obtaining objective information in order to set rational priorities for allocation of scarce resources. The decision-maker, on the other hand, may simply be unable to determine what the next steps ought to be and, consequently, takes no action on

critical issues.

15. Strengthening of management and of public participation processes in decision-making are the two principles that should undergird all human settlements and shelter development. From these will flow and better directed decision-making and more effective programmes for implementing decisions.

ANNEX I

A note on sustainability

1. Starting from the central goal of Habitat II -- improving the living environments of all on a sustainable basis -- it must be asked, what is a universal definition of sustainable?

2. With regard to human settlements, sustainability refers mainly to sustainability of the natural environment, within which human life may flourish or fade. Sustainability implies perpetuation. Of the three components of the human milieu -- economic, social, and environmental -- only environmental sustainability is critical to the perpetuation of the species.

18. Humans are both economically and culturally adaptable, leaving behind old methods of production when economies fail and old habits and traditions when societies fail. When the environment fails, however, there is diminished possibility for human economic and social adaptation. Human history argues against the practicability, and even the desirability, of economic and social perpetuation and for the necessity of environmental sustainability.

3. This is not to ignore social and economic needs. The ideas expressed in the terms "social sustainability" or "economic sustainability", however, are related more to the adjustments which are necessary for economic and social improvement to occur. The whole set of concepts expressed in the second half of the term "sustainable development" addresses the adaptation of social and economic structures to create more equitable, just, and robust communities. By equating social and economic sustainability with environmental or ecological sustainability, however, the concepts are politicized, making it possible for dominant interest groups to argue that what exists is better than what ought to exist. This allows for the perpetuation of inequitable social structures and environmentally harmful economic activities, among other characteristics of both developing and developed countries.

4. Because of the lack of definition of sustainable (and the subsequent possibility of its misapplication) the word is not contained in the four principles proposed in this report.

ANNEX II

Other models for a set of principles

A. Agenda 21

1. Both the substance and format for the 27 principles proclaimed by the Rio Declaration in 1992 may be considered by the Preparatory Committee as being appropriate to sustainable development of human settlements. Some of the 27 are directly applicable, as for example Principle 8:

To achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, States should reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate demographic policies.

This principle supports the idea that sustainability refers primarily to the environment and that economies and social structures must be made more adaptable.

2. Other Agenda 21 principles may have only indirect applicability, as does Principle 14:

States should effectively cooperate to discourage or prevent the relocation and transfer to other States of any activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health.

3. In general, the Agenda 21 principles tend to be prescriptive and/or mandatory, as in Principle 5:

All States and all people shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in order to decrease the disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people in the world.

4. Without engaging in an argument over precise applicability of each principle, the way in which they are expressed, and whether some of them should be modified and adapted as part of a set of human settlements principles, the Preparatory Committee may wish to simply adopt all 27 principles from Agenda 21 by reference as being subsumed under the proposed four principles, above.

B. World summit for social development

5. In the documentation on the 1995 World Summit for Social Development that was available to the secretariat prior to the preparation of this report, there was no reference made to a set of principles that will result from that Conference. Neither the summary presentation by the President of Economic and Social Council, Ambassador Juan Somavia, nor the report of the Secretary-

General at the substantive session of 1993 contain any reference to either a

global plan of action or a set of principles, although the latter document refers to a review of major social goals and targets adopted by the United Nations system. As a model for, or a source of, principles related to human settlements, therefore, the preparatory process for the World Summit does not yet provide much insight. It does, however, provide an alternative model of a null set of principles.
